resources. A major breakthrough of the Conference was on "Transfer of technologies". A positive outcome of the Conference was the Adaptation Fund finally made operational after years of stalemate on governance issues. It was decided that developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change are eligible for funding from the Adaptation Fund. The Fund would assist developing countries in meeting the costs of adaptation. The adaptation Fund shall finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes that are country driven and are based on the needs, views and priorities of eligible Parties.

The Bali Action Plan acknowledged enahanced nationa/international action on mitigation of climate change including policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degaradation in developing countries. It also noted the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries as pressed by India. It is expected that the decisions taken at Bali would enhance the implementation of the UNFCCC and as a responsible country, India will engage constructively in these negotiations.

Pollution in river Ganga

2680. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that saints during Kumbh Mela in Allahabad registered their protest against pollution in river Ganga, recently and observed the sacred Ganga has become 'dirty drain' due to the policies of Government;

(b) if so, the full details thereof;

(c) whether this condition of Ganga is only due to the negligence of Government and misappropriation/Not proper utilization of fund released for cleaning of Ganga during last 20 years;

(d) if so, whether Government would take fresh initiatives to revive and rejuvenate Ganga and will take action against the culprits; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA); (a) and (b) As per the report of U.P. Government, during the Kumbh Mela in 2000-2001 at Allahabad, no protest was registered by saints against pollution in river Ganga. During the Ardh Kumbh Mela in 2006-2007, one saint staged a dharna for releasing fresh water in river Ganga for making it pollution free and filed a court case in Hon'ble Allahabad High Court for the same. On the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, the U.P. Government released fresh water to reduce the pollution in the river at Sangam in Allahabad during the Ardh Kumbh Mela.

(c) to (e) Central Government is providing assistance to the concerned State Governments under the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) for taking up works for abatement of pollution of river Ganga in various towns located along the banks in a phased manner. Under GAP Phase-I. completed in March, 2000 and GAP Phase-II, sanctioned in stages from 1993 onward, 423 schemes of pollution abatement have been completed till date. A total of 970 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created for river Ganga under both the phases so far. The water quality monitoring done by independent reputed institutions of the country indicates that despite a phenomenal increase in the population of urban centres

along the river banks, the water quality of the river shows a discernible improvement at major locations over the pre-GAP quality. Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to rapid urbanization and increase in population. Review of strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Due to continuous increase in the population resulting in increased pollution load, and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the tackled pollution load and the actual pollution load.

Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change

2681. SHRIRAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) under UN has reportedly assessed that 11 out of last 12 years were among the hottest in recorded history and that (i) 120 million to 1.2 billion people in Asia will experience increased water stress by 2020 (ii) per capita water availability in India will drop from 1,820 cubic meter in 2001 to 1140 cubic meters by 2050 and (iii) in Himalayas, glaciers less than 4 kms long will disappear if average global temperatures rise by 30C; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps Government propose to initiate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report contains the relevant observations in this regard, IPCC Climate Change 2007 provides current understanding of the Physical Science basis of climate change; impact, adaptation and vulnerability to climate change and mitigation of climate change. The assessments are based on model projections and would need to be further substantiated by in depth National studies especially the recession of glaciers in the Himalayas.

India has been following a path of sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Some of the steps taken by the Government include *inter alia*-setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and encouraging energy conservation and introduction of energy efficiency labeling, promoting use of renewable energy, power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme, use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, promotion of clean coal technologies, reduction of gas flaring, encouraging. Mass Rapid Transport systems and environmental quality management for all sectors. Besides, India spends every year over 2 per cent of the GDP in development measures with strong adaptation content.

The National Environment Policy 2006 of Ministry of Environment and Forests *inter alia* addresses the issue of global warming. Government has also set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" in May 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that may be needed to address vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

A high level coordination committee chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister called "Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate National action for assessment adaptation and mitigation of climate change" was constituted on 6th June 2007. In the meeting held on 13th July 2007, it has been decided to prepare and finalise 'India's Climate Change Action Programme'.